

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 15, 2018



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## **Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center activates in response to anticipated severe weather**

**TRAVIS COUNTY, Texas** - The Austin-Travis County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will activate at 10 p.m. this evening in response to anticipated severe weather and hazardous road conditions.

Beginning at 8 p.m. media requests can be directed to the EOC media relations line at 512-974-0699. Media requests before 8 p.m. should be directed to the on-call HSEM PIO at 512-974-0599 and the on-call Travis County Emergency Services PIO at 512-284-3210.

No determination has been made yet regarding City of Austin or Travis County operating hours on Tuesday. For the most up-to-date information about City of Austin and Travis County closure or delay information, monitor social media.

**Important information to share with the public includes:**

- The Winter Storm Warning for sleet and ice, which begins at midnight tonight, means driving could be hazardous through Wednesday afternoon.
- Austin area public should take time today if you need to run urgent errands, shop for groceries or fill prescriptions.
- If you do drive, slow down, avoid hard braking, be extra alert to brake lights and visit [DriveTexas.org](http://DriveTexas.org) to know before you go about any hazards.
- Never use your oven, stove, or outdoor grill as a source of heat in any enclosed area. This is a fire hazard that can generate deadly amounts of odorless, colorless, carbon monoxide fumes.
- Remember that space heaters need space." Heaters should be at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including walls, curtains, and bedding. Make sure they're not near any combustibles or in high-traffic areas.
- Before freezing weather, wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of the home and remove garden hoses from outside faucets. Know where your property owner's cut-off valve is located and how to use it.
- Use caution when walking outside to avoid falling injuries on slick or frozen sidewalks, patios, driveways and steps.
- It's important for relatives and friends to check in with their older adult family members, friends and neighbors. Winter is an especially important time to keep an eye on seniors and falling injuries are a concern.

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